



Volume 44

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Number 9

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The 531st meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in San Francisco on Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the First Unitarian Church at Geary and Franklin Sts.

Mrs. Junea W. Kelly will be the speaker. She brings a very timely message. Her subject will be "The Meeting of the 13th International Council for Bird Preservation" held in New York, June 11-16, 1962.

Another special for this evening, our first fall meeting: All are invited to join us for dinner at the Unitarian Church at 6. "Audubon Cooks" promise a good dinner for just \$1.00. If you will help on the arrangements crew, please call Pat Tiggard, Piedmont, OL 5-8567, or Val DaCosta, San Francisco, WE 1-5257. We are hoping for a large turn-out.

—MYRA BROWNE, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

On Saturday and Sunday, September 8 and 9, to Moss Landing and Monterey overnight. On Saturday take U.S. 101 south to the Monterey Peninsula cutoff (Route 156) 9 miles north of Salinas. Turn west to Castroville, then north (right) on Route 1 for 3 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. near the bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Distance from Bay Area is 110 miles. Driving time is 3 hours. This spot offers beach, ocean lagoon, pond, marsh, and open grass land habitat all in one package. At this time the migration of loon, grebe, albatross, fulmar, shearwater and petrel takes place. Last year Elegant Terns, Golden Plovers and Knots were seen. After lunch go to the Coast Guard pier in Monterey, where we will assemble at 2 p.m. From here we will bird along the coast to Pigeon Point. A side trip to the mouth of the Carmel River for Baird and Pectoral Sandpipers will be made at the close of the day.

On Sunday, Sept. 9, at 9 a.m. depart from Sam's Wharf on a party boat for a trip off the Monterey coast. Allow one-half hour for parking car at the Municipal Parking Lot, walking to Sam's Wharf, and boarding boat. Do not park in the metered zones. Return will be at 2 p.m. Be sure to wear warm clothing, bring lunch and seasick pills. Fare \$4.50 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548-65th Ave., Oakland 5. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Co-leaders, Richard Stallcup, DO 9-3185 and Paul DeBenedictis, TH 8-5240.

On Sunday, September 16, to Canyon Ranch in Marin County. This place is about 4 miles north of the town of Stinson Beach. It can be reached by taking State Route No. 1 starting at the south end of Richardson Bay bridge or by going through Fairfax to Olema and turning south for about 10 miles. The marine life in Bolinas Bay and Lagoon and Duxbury Point tide flats will be the subject of study early in the day when the tide is still out. Later in the day attention will probably be given to the local bird life and the interrelationship between the animal and marine life found here. A visit to the Canyon Ranch will also be made. Water-proof footwear is suggested for walking in the tide flats. Bring binoculars, telescopes, interested friends and lunch. Shovels and buckets may be useful in the tide flats. Meet at 7 a. m. and 9:30 a. m. at Canyon Ranch. Look for the sign on the mail box. Leader, Dr. Howard L. Cogswell of Mills College. Phone NE 6-1573.

On Tuesday, September 18, to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 43rd Avenue and Fulton Street, at 9 a. m. Birding will start at the Chain of Lakes and proceed to other areas as the group desires. At this time of year there is usually an early fall migration of warblers. Our leader makes frequent trips to this area so may be prepared to point out some unusual birds. Leader, Mrs. Hubert Fry, SE 1-2874.

On Saturday, September 22, to Bay Farm Island and Alameda. This date is probably at the peak of the fall migration of shorebirds. Meet at 8:30 a. m. at entrance to Lincoln Park, High Street and Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda. Take No. 51 bus from Berkeley or Oakland, Bus D from San Francisco. A tour will be made of the spots most likely to produce the best birding, starting with Lincoln Park and going from there to East Shore Drive, Mecartney Drive and the west shore. Bring binoculars, telescopes, interested friends, and lunch if you plan to stay through the period of maximum movement of birds. Leader, Elsic Roemer, LA 2-0941.

On Saturday, October 6, boat trip off Monterey coast. Boat will leave from Sam's Wharf, at 9 a. m. and return at 3 p. m. Park cars at Fisherman's Wharf Municipal Parking Lot. Do not park in the metered zones. Allow one half hour to park car, walk to Sam's Wharf, and board boat. Wear warm clothing, bring lunch and seasick pills. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to Monterey. Black-footed Albatross, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwater, Black and Ashy Petrel, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaeger, and Skua have been seen on previous trips. A group of expert birders from Los Angeles, headed by Arnold Small, will join us. A social get-together with the Los Angeles birders at a Monterey restaurant is being planned for Saturday night. Look for details in October *Gull*. Fare \$4.50 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548-65th Avenue, Oakland 5. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Co-leaders, Richard Stallecup, LO 9-3185 and Guy McCaskie, P. O. Box 214, Tahoe City.

—HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Miss Emma F. Paxson; from Berkeley, Mrs. C. R. Nicewonger, Mr. David C. Robinson, Miss Sally M. Sanderson, Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Carson; from Snow Hill, Maryland, Mr. Ben T. Truitt; from Menlo Park, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Scarrott; from Oakland, Mrs. L. A. Sanchez, Dr. and Mrs. Edgar Schøen, Mr. Paul F. Terrill, Jr., Miss Ann Sprayberry; from Orinda, Mr. Luis G. Ireland; from Richmond, Miss A. Marion Stockton; from San Francisco, Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Barrett, Mrs. Mabel L. Peterson, Dr. Alvin C. Hjelmen, Miss Rose H. Neal, Miss Phyllis Carroll, Mr. Harvey A. Miles, Mr. Alfred E. Graziani, Miss Abby M. Kerr, Mr. Robert J. DeBow, HMCS H. K. Club. (3rd Marine Division).

—VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Membership Chairman*

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of
Mrs. Bessie Kibbe

Gift of
Mrs. Junea Kelly

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

BUCHHEISTER SEES POOR WATERFOWL PROSPECT

I have just returned from Canada where I traveled more than 1100 miles by automobile and light aircraft in Saskatchewan and Alberta to get a firsthand look at waterfowl nesting conditions. Mr. William A. Riaski, executive secretary of the Izaak Walton League of America, and Mr. Walter Gresh, southeastern regional director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, also were in the party. The trip was arranged by the Bureau and we were escorted by Dr. Fred Glover, the capable and experienced biologist who is in charge of breeding-ground surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The area we covered is in the heart of the famous marsh and pothole country of the prairie provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) which normally produces from 50 to 80 per cent of the wild ducks of North America.

I can make only one kind of report, based on my own observations and impressions; I do not purport to speak for Mr. Riaski or the Fish and Wildlife Service. In my opinion there is almost no chance of an increase in the number of ducks coming south this fall compared to 1961, and last year the hunting season unquestionably cut into the breeding stock. The chances are there will be fewer ducks this fall. The Service had earlier reported, in a press release dated June 25, that the first aerial surveys of the summer in Canada and the northern States indicated the smallest breeding population since 1951. In the prairie provinces mallards were down 12 per cent, pintails down 28 per cent, compared to 1961.

Drought conditions persist. Spring run-off, better in some localities, was of little help, over-all. In one area where I counted from the air, nine of every ten potholes were dry; in another area, three of every four. In late July there was little evidence of unusual nesting success among the depleted breeding birds. Evidence of drainage, and of agricultural encroachment on the dry potholes, could be seen all too frequently.

Those who have the responsibility of setting the hunting regulations face some extremely grave decisions. The open seasons and bag limits, or whether to permit any hunting at all this fall, have to be decided in August by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Secretary of the Interior.

I am grateful to the Service for making it possible for me to take the trip. It is with deep regret that I give you this gloomy report.

—CARL W. BUCHHEISTER in *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide*.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Assistant Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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